



Design for Social Prescribing



Who We Are

We have a wide network of collaborators, partners and friends, but it's the three of us – Alasdair, Siri and Khuzema – who make up the core of Collective Works.

We recognise that each of us brings our own ideas and our own strengths to our work. When the detail might appear overwhelming, Alasdair steps back and shines clarity on the bigger picture. When outside circumstances have threatened to derail a project, Siri has the positive mindset to get it back on its feet. When the final push needs a clear eye for detail, it's Khuzema who has exactly the tenacity we need.

But the three of us are of one mind when it comes to beauty and responsibility; these are the driving forces of our work. While our industry has traditionally seen the two as almost contradictory, we've always argued the opposite: the most sustainable, responsible buildings are the most beautiful.



Khuzema Hussain, Siri Zanelli, Alasdair Dixon

We get excited by the potential of responsible, beautiful architecture.

Social Prescribing

Social Prescribing Projects provide an inclusive and welcoming environment where Link Workers, community groups and the voluntary sector can come together to support the local population, improve health and wellbeing, and provide opportunities for personal growth and development.

Our Social Prescribing projects are designed in close collaboration with the stakeholders, recognising that agency and involvement, as well as an in depth understanding of operations, ensures successful outcomes.



- 1 Welcoming entrance with a less clinical feel
- 2 Decorative pieces from local artists and schools to create sense of shared ownership
- 3 Information on self-referral and community services
- 4 Space for volunteers to chat to people who are isolated or struggling
- 5 Tea and cake station and chairs facing each other to encourage conversation
- 6 Charity-run cooking classes or food bank support
- 7 Allotments managed by local people and community groups
- 8 Wellbeing gardens for people to relax, talk and destress
- 9 Outdoor gym for mental and physical wellbeing
- 10 Use sheds or outbuildings for outdoor community projects
- 11 Bookable shared space for singular or group therapy
- 12 Bookable shared space for community groups, with evening access enabled for after work classes
- 13 Co-locate support services such as free legal advice
- 14 Office for link workers to work between clients
- 15 Involve community members in the design of facilities and build relationships with them to understand their needs and priorities, and work together to co-create initiatives
- 16 Partner with local cafes to run support groups and other activities
- 17 Nurture partnerships with ICS partners to enable more integrated care for communities

Our Design Tools



Colour

Plants & Biophilia

Fitted Joinery

Victoria Central, Liverpool

Collective Works was appointed to turn empty spaces in the existing Victoria Central Health Centre in Wirral into a welcoming hub for a variety of stakeholders and charities involved with Social Prescribing.

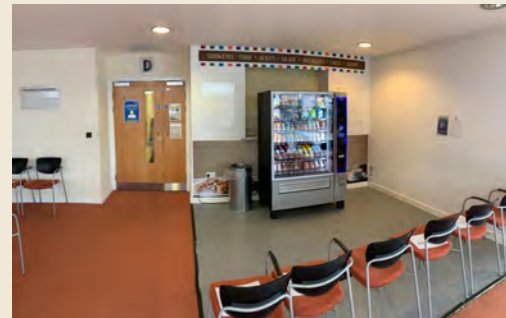
The staff and managers from a variety of community groups and charities gave detailed input on how the spaces would need to operate, and the design was developed to work with existing materials and finishes to remain cost effective and sustainable, but also create unique and welcoming spaces for staff and users.

We used colour, plants and landscape photography to create warm, welcoming and non clinical spaces. A flexible coworking space will support the variety of staff and encourage collaboration, and the cafe is designed to be a welcoming hub.

Client – NHS Property Services / Victoria Health Centre

Appointment – July 2021

Approximate Construction Budget – £100K

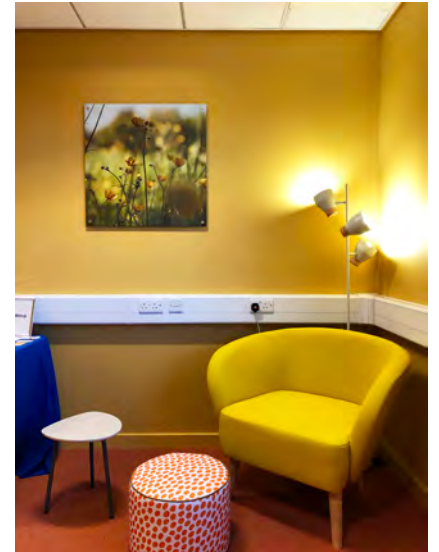


Victoria Central Solutions



“Flourish Wellbeing Hub is the first Social Prescribing Hub in Wirral. The Hub brings together a range of excellent community and voluntary sector organisations and offers wrap-around services that will help people improve their health and wellbeing. I look forward to seeing the Hub develop in the coming months”

Dame Angela Eagle MP



Wellington Way, London

Wellington Way health centre in East London is surrounded by a fenced narrow outdoor space that is rarely used.

Our brief was to turn this border space into a garden that would be used as a social space and informal waiting area.

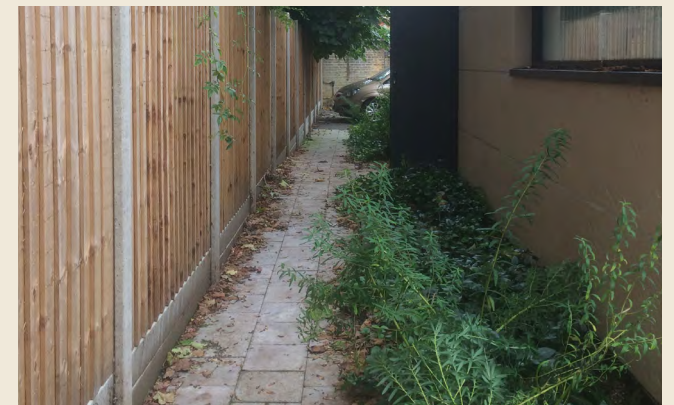
We suggested to use the external space as part of the health centre; a semi-private garden for social prescribing classes such as yoga, mediation and gardening, as well as a space for staff and patients to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

Built-in planter seating provides informal outdoor waiting and breakout area for staff. Large planters break up the garden and create natural screens of plants that add pockets of privacy. A local community gardening organisation arranged a three day gardening workshop to educate, engage and involve the staff, patients and the wider community.

Client – NHS Property Services / Wellington Way

Appointment – July 2021

Approximate Construction Budget – £15K



Wellington Way Solutions



Feedback from gardening workshop:

“ I am so happy to finally say that we have a beautiful garden now. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in this project. With your support our patients and staff can now enjoy the space created. I managed to get staff involved with the gardening, and I must say our staff loved this opportunity given to them to plant something in the garden. ”

Social Prescribing Link Worker, London E3



Ashfield, Nottinghamshire

The overall vision was to create a new social prescribing hub in a disused former canteen and kitchen space which was once a vibrant communal meeting space. From conversations with staff and users, we realised the importance of having a mixture of open and enclosed spaces to be respectful of patients' privacy whilst also ensuring that the centre could be reinstated as a community hub.

The main space is a flexible, fully adaptable space, allowing for alternative future uses. The space should be able to host both large groups as well as small private one to one meetings and counselling sessions, so accessibility and adaptability were key parts of the design proposal.

Client – NHS Property Services / Ashfield Community Hospital

Appointment – November 2021

Approximate Construction Budget – £100K



Ashfield Solutions



Warm and welcoming



Multi-purpose space



Movable furniture



Pockets of privacy

Flexible and Vibrant

Design Approach

Collective Works – We stay true to our name by making sure our projects are collaborative, inclusive and embrace diversity. Good relationships build good buildings, so we strive to listen – and really hear from – the various stakeholders involved in each project.

Responsibility and Beauty are our objectives, and we'll work hard to align with your objectives, discussing the essential project outcomes with the whole team and keeping our feasibility work necessarily broad to ensure that opportunities to create social value, sustainable revenue and outstanding buildings are never missed.

What follows is an outline of the key steps we'll carry out when working for you.

Build the best team – We'll bring diversity of thinking to your project with a handpicked team, and partners with a variety of experience and viewpoints. One partner will lead the engagement both building a relationship with yourselves and managing the scope of work.

A project such as this would have a second Partner overseeing deliverables and providing additional design experience. In addition, a project architect- part 3+ with at least 5 years' experience- would be responsible for involving you in the design and managing the rest of the team.

Social Value – We're Social Value advocates as it helps improve outcomes for communities and gives professionals better ways to understand and quantify some of their least tangible, but arguably most important impacts. We trialled and contributed to the RIBA's Social Value Toolkit and would recommend working with such a toolkit when the project is of an appropriate scale. By measuring social value at the outset of this project with a simple survey we'll be able to intelligently respond to the existing community on site, by better understanding their aspirations and locally important features. It'll be important to gather qualitative and quantitative feedback at this stage to set useful metrics whilst giving room to understand the project's broader impact and any unintended outcomes.

Wellbeing & Biodiversity – We know the importance of design on the mind & body, especially in a post lockdown world where so many people have adapted their relationship to home. With this in mind we'll champion health & wellbeing and ensure that our layouts, orientation and massing enable buildings which nourish & comfort their inhabitants. Factors such as air quality, light levels, acoustics, and use of natural and tactile materials will all be part of the strategy. In addition, with our increasing awareness of the enormous value that nature provides we'll advocate for biodiversity net gain and work with your landscape team or ecologist to achieve that. The image below was taken at the gardening morning organised at our NHS social prescribing project in Bow, where we introduced a new accessible garden and planters for the benefit of both patients and staff.



Service Quality

Collective Works started with an ambition to work on diverse project types. The studio has worked on projects that were built entirely of reclaimed material to others whose construction values exceeded £2m. Some of the work was self-built – with the studio, itself, offering labour – and others were delivered by award-winning contractors. And even project financing ranged from a need to fundraise – which we organised – to relying on grants to the more commonplace private funding.

We are led by three Partners who each have over 15 years of professional practice experience in the UK. Two of the Partners hold architectural licenses for the UK; one of those additionally holds a license for Norway and the third Partner has a license for the US (New York). Within the office, all projects have either one or two Partners-in-charge. Supporting them are two Project Architects, both of whom are ARB-qualified and with the company for over 5 years. There is also an experienced Part 2 architectural assistant and a trainee architectural technologist who support projects in varying capacities. The studio also has a finance manager who is a chartered accountant.

The studio is a RIBA Chartered Practice. And the Partners have used their position to promote change within the RIBA, throughout the profession and across other small businesses. All three partners have been recognised for their efforts within the industry and have presented the practices work as well as spoken extensively on sustainable design, professional ethics, social value and diversity



Notable clients

- The NHS
- BADU Sports
- Haringey Council
- The Old Vic Theatre
- Wentworth Nursery School
- Highgate Primary School
- Keychange Christian Charity
- Omved International

Recognition

- Wallpaper*, Rising Stars
- Arch Foundation, New Architects 4
- Design Council Experts Panel
- BRE, 2030 Home Innovation Prize
- Sunday Times, Featured Home
- Don't Move Improve, Shortlist



Service Quality

Quality management – All projects follow our in-house Project Quality Plan (PQP) which builds on the latest RIBA Plan of Work alongside embedded knowledge from the practice's own experience. PQPs are reviewed at fortnightly design reviews and continually updated to meet changing regulations and legislation. The company's trajectory towards more complex and larger projects has been steady over the last decade. However, it was the challenges and opportunities of the COVID pandemic that led the studio to make a concerted shift towards BIM software and take up the RIBA 2030 Climate challenge. Within the team we encourage a no overtime culture, as staying sharp means working healthy. Our goal is to strengthen the culture of focused work and calendar planning such that we can ensure a well-rested, healthy, and mentally refreshed team more likely to come up with good ideas and take projects to higher standards.

Information management – Within the practice we rely on Teamwork a dedicated platform to help us manage project programmes, deliverables, deadlines, contacts, client communications and more. Each project is assigned a dedicated email address such that all issues, instructions and briefing notes can be tracked and managed by all team members. Drawing issues and major deadlines have time built for reviews, both as whole company design reviews and technical submission reviews. The server itself is accessed by the team via secure logins and backed up on a daily basis to avoid any data loss or duplication.

Digital tools – Since switching to ArchiCAD we have had an improved workflow and are finding benefits of a more robust integrated modelling and drafting platform. The practice has regular training sessions led by Tomas and Khuzema, our technical leads. Clients are seeing the benefits of this integration as we now share walkthroughs and live models via Modelo. In addition we rely on a suite of digital tools, tablets, scanners and applications to manage workflow, surveying, communication and co-ordination. Alongside this we still find room for hand drawings to keep a human touch in our presentations.

Climate Advocacy – We publish and share knowledge across the profession, working with a variety of groups advocating for a more robust response to the climate emergency. This brings benefits to our own practice as we remain at the forefront of discourse and continually improve our own knowledge and skills. We were selected for the pilot of the Better Futures+ Programme, supported by the Mayor of London, which helped us measure and reduce our carbon emissions and pledge to be Carbon Neutral in 2022 and Net Zero by 2025. The company is an Architects Declare signatory, and member of the Architects Declare Steering Group and Architects Climate Action Network. We sat on the RIBA Ethics and Sustainable Development Commission. We used this experience to co-create a Roadmap for Change which guides small practices on the journey to embrace sustainability in both their designs and operations.



Our Values

— Looking to the future

We design with a bright future in mind. As today's decisions will have long-ranging consequences, our approach combines recognised metrics with a responsive human touch.

— Taking responsibility

We recognise a responsibility to you, the planet and society at large. We create healthy, natural environments and advocate for low carbon construction and enhanced biodiversity.

— Exploring beauty

Beautiful, harmonious, colourful and legible spaces improve personal health and well-being. Any carefully designed facility can be a unique sequence of spaces providing unexpected moments of joy.





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